

I am grateful, Mr. Speaker, that just outside the halls of this historic Chamber, religious leaders of great faith from all over this country, Baptists, Methodists, Jews, Episcopalians and many other faiths will speak out against the Istook amendment, because they believe as Jefferson and Madison did that the best way to ruin religion is to politicize it. That is what the Istook amendment will do.

I urge parents, people and Members across this body and America to oppose the Istook amendment.

AGAINST MFN STATUS FOR CHINA

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, most Americans know and understand that one's actions speak louder than words, but yesterday the President proposed giving permanent most favored nation trading status to Communist China saying that it was, and I quote, clearly in the best interest of this Nation.

We need to look past these words and check out their actions. It was just 18 months ago that our President said, and I quote, not a single, solitary missile was pointed at American children. We now know that China with the help of this administration has at least 13 nuclear missiles aimed at the United States and our children.

In 1990, China provided Iraq with the chemicals needed for a hydrogen bomb. China supplied Pakistan with a weapons grade plutonium reactor in 1991. Despite China's claim that they were not making any nuclear deals with Iran, China gave Iran a nuclear reactor in 1994. Now we are told that China is the single most important supplier of weapons of mass destruction in the world.

MFN status is supposed to be reserved for our best friends, our allies, the countries we are trying to help. Communist China is not our friend.

VOTE NO ON THE ISTOOK AMENDMENT

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, am I a church member? Yes, I am. Is my church important to me? Absolutely. Do I go to church as often as possible and get the good community that is there for me? Absolutely. Do I want the Federal Government to be involved in my church? No. Do I want the government to prescribe prayer in our schools? No. Today we allow already for Bible groups, individual prayer and campus meetings at our schools. That is absolute. We cannot pretend that is not already possible.

Today we will vote on a resolution that would undermine the first amendment, undermine religious freedom.

Today support Madison and Jefferson and vote for religious freedom and against school sponsored prayer. Do not politicize religion. Vote no on the Istook amendment.

PENTAGON REPORTS NATIONAL SECURITY HARMED BY TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it does not take a rocket scientist to know that helping Communist China with its rocket technology is not in our national interest.

According to published reports, the Pentagon concluded in a May 1997 report that "national security has been harmed" by the transfer of sensitive computer technology to Communist China's military industrial complex.

Where is that May 1997 Pentagon report, you may ask?

Well, here is another key document, a document with critical information that Congress does not possess and which Congress has been told we will never see.

What has the White House response been about this May 1997 Pentagon report? Denials, explanations?

No. We get silence. Or we get spin. Silence and spin. That is about all the American people get anymore. However, this crisis is about national security. This issue puts every American at risk. This makes the world a more dangerous place to live. It is a very serious issue. We deserve a full report.

BUDGET RESOLUTION DOES NOT ADD UP

(Mr. FAZIO of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, the Senate passed its budget resolution over 2 months ago. Under the rules of the House, we should have passed a budget resolution at least by the 15th of April. So we come to the floor very late today, and one would think at this late date, we would be prepared with a tight, consensus budget. In fact, that is not the case. We have a \$24 billion black hole in this budget resolution the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) will present today. We double count cuts in food stamp administration, we double count cuts in veterans spending. In fact, unless we can find alternatives to using these cuts twice, we will pass a fraudulent budget or end up cutting these programs for more than any of us intend.

The New York Times said of this resolution when it came to the Budget committee that "it fails the basic integrity test and that the House should vote it down, demanding instead a budget that is real, not rigged." I agree, Mr. Speaker. We are not ready,

even at this late date, with the Committee on Appropriations waiting in the wings to deal with a budget resolution that just does not add up. Let us protect Social Security and not spend any of the surplus until we have found a solution to the baby boom bulge and bring the Social Security fund into balance.

SUPPORT THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to urge my colleagues to support the 1999 budget resolution. Building on our success in balancing the budget, this plan outlines the next steps to empower families so that they can keep more of their hard-earned money.

By reducing government spending by one penny over 5 years, that is just one-fifth of a penny each year for 5 years out of each dollar, we can improve the quality of life in America in three important ways. First, we can continue to pay down the national debt so that our constituents pay less in interest for loans, and our economy remains strong.

Secondly, we can lower taxes so that Americans keep more of their money to support their families or plan for the future. Today our citizens pay nearly 40 percent from their paycheck each month to support the government. I think that is a very unfair tax burden.

Third, we can protect and modernize the Social Security system that gives Americans from every generation the peace of mind about their retirement years. The Republican approach is a good approach. I urge my colleagues to support it.

THE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the budget. Well, actually two budgets. There is on the one hand the Republican extreme budget, a budget that is irresponsible, a budget that contains a \$24 billion black hole of unspecified cuts, a budget that is weighted once again toward the wealthy. On the other hand, you have the Democratic budget. It is a balanced budget, but it focuses on people.

Why do I object to the Republican budget? First, it fails to protect Social Security. It talks about a better way of life, but the administration and the Democrats have said the first thing we ought to do is put every penny of the surplus toward protecting Social Security. That is the people's budget. That is the Democratic perspective.

Second, the Republican budget fails to invest in education. The thing that is most important for our Nation's future is to invest in education, smaller